Drought in States

†3057. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 724 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 2002 and state whether any all party meeting has been convened by Government to study the drought situation in many States while plenty of foodgrains are available in the country and, if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : Yes, Sir. An all party meeting on "Public Distribution System" was held on 25th July, 2003 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in which all the participants expressed their views for streamlining the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country.

Complaints over quality of foodgrains from States

3058. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ :
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have complained about the poor quality of foodgrains supplied to them;

(b) if so, the details of States that have complained in this regard in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the main reason for poor quality foodgrains is the long periods of storage of foodgrains in various FCI godowns; and

(d) if so, the remedy Government plan to initiate to correct this in the near future keeping buffer stocks in mind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) and (b) Foodgrains of fair average quality conforming to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.